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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of September 13, 2004, a non-final rejection. The shortened statutory period for reply to the September 13, 2004 Office Action expired on December 13, 2004. A petition for a 3 month extension to the shortened statutory period of reply is submitted along with this Amendment, providing a period of reply that extends through March 13, 2005. Since March 13, 2005 was a Sunday, this reply is being submitted on Monday March 14, 2005. The appropriate petition fee is being submitted together with the petition for extension of the period for reply.

Claims 1 and 10-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-6 and 13-15 of prior US Patent No. 6,664,704. These claims are canceled by this amendment, and so this rejection is obviated.


The September 13, 2004 Office Action indicated that claims 2 - 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the Examiner's careful search and the finding of allowable subject matter in claims 2-9. Allowable claim 2 has been amended to include all of the limitations of intervening claim 1. Claims 3, 7, and 9 have been amended so that they are now dependent upon amended claim 2. Therefore, applicant submits that amended claims 2 - 9 are now allowable.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that allowance of the application is in order and is requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described here, are being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on this 14th day of March, 2005.

By 

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